

IN THE CLAIMS;

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended).** A system for purifying exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine having a bypass exhaust gas passage, openable through a switch-over valve, branched from an exhaust pipe at a location downstream of a catalytic converter and merged into the exhaust pipe at a downstream point, an adsorbent installed in the bypass exhaust gas passage which adsorbs unburned components of the exhaust gas, and a recirculation pipe which recirculates the exhaust gas including the unburned components at a location upstream of the catalytic converter, wherein ~~the improvement comprises:~~ the recirculation pipe is made of metal, ~~and is connected to the bypass exhaust gas passage at a lowest point of the recirculation pipe relative to an axis of gravity and close to the exhaust pipe, and such that the recirculation pipe is brought into in~~ thermal contact with the exhaust pipe.

2. **(Currently Amended).** A system ~~according to claim 1~~ for purifying exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine having a bypass exhaust gas passage, openable through a switch-over valve, branched from an exhaust pipe at a location downstream of a catalytic converter and merged into the exhaust pipe at a downstream point, an adsorbent installed in the bypass exhaust gas passage which adsorbs unburned components of the exhaust gas, and a recirculation pipe which recirculates the exhaust gas including the unburned components at a location upstream of the catalytic converter,

wherein the recirculation pipe is made of metal and in thermal contact with the exhaust pipe, and

wherein an inner wall of the recirculation pipe is formed with liquid repellent and oil repellent film.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A system according to claim 1, wherein the recirculation pipe is connected to an air intake system of the engine at one end and is connected to a chamber, at the other end, which defines the bypass exhaust gas passage and the recirculation pipe comprises a descending portion and a flat portion relative to ~~an~~ the axis of gravity, wherein the recirculation pipe ~~such that it~~ excludes a portion that may collect liquid.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A system according to claim 2, wherein the recirculation pipe is connected to an air intake system of the engine at one end and is connected to a chamber, at the other end, which defines the bypass exhaust gas passage and the recirculation pipe comprises a descending portion and a flat portion relative to ~~an~~ the axis of gravity, wherein the recirculation pipe ~~such that it~~ excludes a portion that may collect liquid.

5. **(Original)** A system according to claim 1, wherein the recirculation pipe is fastened to a body of the engine by a support made of metal.

6. **(Original)** A system according to claim 1, wherein the recirculation pipe is fastened to the exhaust pipe by a stay made of metal.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A system according to claim 1, wherein the recirculation pipe has a corrugated portion which allows the recirculation pipe to ~~expands~~ expand or contract ~~contact~~ in response to expansion or contraction of the exhaust pipe due to exhaust gas heat.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A system according to claim 6, wherein the recirculation pipe has a corrugated portion which allows the recirculation pipe to ~~expands~~ expand or contract ~~contact~~ in response to expansion or contraction of the exhaust pipe due to exhaust gas heat.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A system according to claim 1, wherein the adsorbent is installed in a chamber defining the bypass exhaust gas passage with a space therebetween, and wherein ~~such that~~ the exhaust gas is introduced in the space.

10. **(New)** A system according to claim 2, wherein the recirculation pipe is fastened to a body of the engine by a metal support.

11. **(New)** A system according to claim 2, wherein the recirculation pipe is fastened to the exhaust pipe by a metal stay.

12. **(New)** A system according to claim 2, wherein the adsorbent is installed in a chamber defining the bypass exhaust gas passage with a space therebetween and wherein the exhaust gas is introduced in the space.